

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02626 251841Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01
COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 HA-05 /136 W
-----116225 260628Z /13

R 251835Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7496
INFO USINT HAVANA

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 02626

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, CU, CA
SUBJECT: GOC AID TO CUBA

REF: STATE 117498

1. IN ANSWER TO MAY 23 QUESTION IN HOUSE OF COMMONS RE
GOC AID TO CUBA IN LIGHT OF CUBAN AFRICAN PRESENCE, PM
TRUDEAU GAVE FOLLOWING RESPONSE. QUOTE: AS TO THE SUB-
STANCE OF THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN AID, I WOULD POINT OUT
TO HIM THAT THE AID PROGRAM TO CUBA WAS INITIATED SOME
YEARS AGO UNDER A REGIME OF CO-OPERATION WITH CUBA WHICH
BEGAN, IF MY MEMORY IS CORRECT, IN THE RIGHT HON. MEMBER'S
DAY (FORMER PM JOHN DIEFENBAKER, WHO PUT QUESTION).
THIS PROGRAM OF CO-OPERATION BEGAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BE-
FORE THE ANGOLAN INCIDENT. IT IS BEING BROUGHT TO
TERMINATION: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
HAS SAID SO. THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR ANY FUTURE
PROJECTS IN CUBA. THE PRESENT PROJECTS ARE EITHER
TERMINATED OR ARE ON THE VERGE OF BEING TERMINATED. END
QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FURTHEST TRUDEAU HAS GONE PUBLICLY
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IN SUGGESTING THAT GOC AID PROGRAM WILL NOT BE REVIVED
AS LONG AS CUBA REMAINS ACTIVE IN AFRICA. WHILE TRUDEAU'S
ANSWER WAS SOMEWHAT HEDGED, I.E. "THERE ARE NO PRESENT
PLANS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS," WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT TRUDEAU
GOVERNMENT WILL NOT EVEN CONSIDER RENEWED AID UNTIL AFTER
ELECTIONS, WHICH MAY BE THIS FALL OR POSSIBLY NEXT SPRING.
AFTER ELECTIONS, IF CUBANS ARE STILL ON THE LOOSE IN

AFRICA, CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OF WHATEVER COMPOSITION MUST
TREAT THIS ISSUE WITH GREAT CARE IN VIEW OF APPARENTLY
WIDESPREAD PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY AVERSION TO AID TO
CUBA. TRUDEAU'S ANSWER ABOVE IS PROBABLY CLOSEST TO
HUMBLE PIE AS HE IS PERSONALLY CAPABLE OF COMING. GOC-
CUBAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN HIS PET BOTH BECAUSE OF HIS
FASCINATION WITH CASTROISM AND AS A POLICY DIVERGENT FROM
THAT OF U.S. DRAWING BACK MUST HURT HIM BUT HIS
IMMEDIATE TASK IS GETTING RE-ELECTED. ENDERS

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NNN

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